GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2620
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017
Climate change in Himalayan Region
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding the carbon sink potential of the Himalayan region and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether any study has been conducted on the impact of climate change on biodiversity and human inhabitants of the Himalayan region and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has implemented mitigation and adaptation measures to check climate change in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the other steps being taken by the Government to mitigate climate change and to check the increasing temperature in the Himalayan region?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not carried out any study regarding the carbon sink potential of the Himalayan region.

(b) A scientific study to assess the impact of climate change was undertaken by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and a report entitled "Climate Change and India: A 4X4 Assessment − A Sectoral and Regional Analysis for 2030s" was published in 2010. The study assessed impacts of climate change on four key sectors of Indian economy, namely, agriculture, water, forests and human health in four climate sensitive regions of India, namely, the Himalayan region, the Western Ghats, the Coastal region and the North-Eastern Region. In the Himalayan region, the net primary productivity (NPP) of forest is projected to increase by about 57% on an average by the 2030s. Further, increase in temperatures may lead to increased morbidity due to heat stress. Malaria is projected to spread to new areas and threats of its transmission are likely to increase for longer duration in the Himalayan region.

(c) The Government has launched the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in June 2008 to deal with climate change and related issues. NAPCC comprises of eight Missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, habitat, water, sustaining Himalayan ecosystems, forestry, agriculture and strategic knowledge for climate change, which addresses the issues relating to mitigation of greenhouse gases and adaptation to climate change. 32 States and UTs have prepared State Action Plan on Climate Change to deal with climate change.

(d) The National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) encompasses, inter alia conservation measures for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayan ecosystems through establishment of monitoring network, promotion of community based management, human resource development, and strengthening regional cooperation. Major initiatives taken under NMSHE include establishment of a Centre for Himalayan Glaciology at the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun and setting up of six Thematic Task Forces viz., Natural and Geological Wealth; Water, Ice, Snow including Glaciers; Micro Flora and Fauna and Wildlife and Animal Population; Himalayan Agriculture; Traditional Knowledge system; and Forest Resources and Plant Diversity. Also, State Climate Change Centers have been set up in the eleven Himalayan states namely, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya and West Bengal.

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